

# GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

## MONTHLY ROUND-UP

Volume 2, Number 4  
June 2001

### Contents

Board News  
- Next meeting  
- Resignation  
- Recruitment  
- New brochure  
- BECC response  
EPA News  
Border Region News  
Calendar

### Board News

from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board  
June 2001 Round-Up

### Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings for 2001

- **July 25-26** - San Diego, California
- **October 10-11** - Laredo, Texas

### Next Good Neighbor Meeting: San Diego July 25-26

Good Neighbor's next meeting at the Horton Grand Hotel in San Diego on July 25-26 promises to be extremely interesting, with local speakers from different sectors addressing water issues on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup>. During the afternoon, presenters will include senior officials from BECC and NADB; EPA's border program; and Mexico's new counterpart advisory committee. The public comment session time on the 25<sup>th</sup> has been changed; it is now scheduled to begin at 3:45 p.m. The following morning, the Board will discuss its recommendations for the upcoming Fifth Report to the President and Congress. The meeting will end at noon on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Member News - Resignation

Board member Marc Sixkiller Ayuvoo of the Pala Tribe has resigned from the Board, due to numerous demands on his schedule. We wish Marc all the best and will miss his contributions to the work of the Board, especially his insights as a tribal member.

### Recruitment

A Federal Register recruitment notice has been published inviting nominations for several vacancies on the Board. Re deadline: Although recruitment is an ongoing process, nominations for current openings will be reviewed beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>; therefore, interested candidates are encouraged to submit all materials by the third week of July.

### New Brochure

A new tri-fold brochure describing Good Neighbor's activities has been printed and is now available. Plans call for a Spanish-language version of the brochure to be available shortly.

### Response to GNEB Letter on BECC Mandate Expansion

The Board has received a response to its letter to BECC /NADB (see April 2001 Round-Up) regarding an expanded mandate. Text follows:

May 31, 2001

Judith M. Espinosa, Chair, Good Neighbor Environmental Board, C/O EPA Office of Cooperative Environmental Management, Mailcode 1601A, 1200 Pennsylvania, Avenue N.W., Washington, D. C. 20004

Subject: BECC Mandate Expansion

Dear Ms. Espinosa:

I would like to thank you for the letter submitted on behalf of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board concerning implementation of our recent mandate expansion. As you are aware, more than a mandate expansion, the recent changes undertaken by the BECC entail, primarily, an expansion of the environmental infrastructure projects to be considered for certification, based on an interpretation of the Agreement that establishes the BECC. Following I would like to address the questions you have presented.

A fundamental principle of mandate expansion is the fact that BECC will maintain a preference for projects in the areas of water pollution, wastewater treatment, municipal solid waste and related matters (as defined in the mandate expansion resolution). The development of new types of projects will not divert focus or resources from projects relating to the basic areas that are already in the pipeline or that will continue to be submitted for BECC certification.

The BECC is exploring potential funding sources in order to begin developing pilot projects in the new areas of activity, including from a number of government programs in the U.S. and Mexico. An important consideration is the fact that many of these projects will very likely be sponsored entirely or partially by the private sector and therefore, BECC will not have to absorb any significant costs related to the project's development.

Technical assistance for the new projects will be governed by current policies, criteria and procedures of the BECC and by any specific guidelines established by agencies or institutions that may provide additional funding for these projects. We believe that there will continue to be certain flexibility with regard to the ability of communities to obtain their own technical assistance and being reimbursed by BECC.

With regard to your question on whether expanded mandate activities will be carried out with the same transparency as prescribed for the other portions of the programs, the answer is yes. Public participation and transparency are and will continue to be at the core of BECC's operations, regardless of the type of project being developed.

Finally, we have not yet looked at the North American Development Foundation as a potential source of funding, although certainly we plan to explore all existing programs from the U. S. and Mexico, including foundations.

I hope that this information is sufficient. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,  
Donald Hobbs, General Counsel

**EPA News**  
from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board  
June 2001 Round-Up

The U.S. Senate has confirmed Stephen L. Johnson, a 20-year career EPA employee, to be Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.

**Border Region News**  
from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board  
June 2001 Round-Up

*\*\*\*Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.\*\*\**

**BECC** - The Board of Directors held its 28<sup>th</sup> public meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C., certifying five environmental infrastructure projects along the border. Speakers included EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman. See [www.cocof.org](http://www.cocof.org)

**Border Governors' Meeting** - The 19<sup>th</sup> Binational Border Governors' Conference took place on June 7-8 in Tampico, Mexico, issuing a Joint Declaration including a section on the environment that includes, among other recommendations, a call to cooperate on conservation and sustainable management of the region's water resources.

**CEC**- See [www.cec.org](http://www.cec.org)

- **Communiqué** - The CEC Council issued a communiqué at its recent session in Guadalajara, Mexico, that says it will concentrate on six areas: environmental information; market-based approaches; regional cooperation for implementation of global agreements; capacity building; building partnerships and strategic linkages; and public participation.

- **JPAC** - The Chair of the Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (NACEC) announced that Environment Secretary Lichtinger has nominated Ms. Laura Silvan de Durazo and Mr. Gustavo Alanis-Ortega to the JPAC, completing Mexico's delegation.

- **Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)** - GAC's most recent advice letter to the U.S. Representative to the CEC, currently EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman, calls for full funding for BECC and NADB.

**Children's Health** - Mexico held its first National Workshop on Children's Health and the Environment on June 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>. Speakers included CEC Secretariat Executive Director Janine Ferretti.

- **Trio Newsletter** - The latest issue of CEC's online newsletter contains stories about the recent June Council meeting, asthma in children, air pollution, greening trade corridors, and new members.

**Fellowships Available** - The Environmental Leadership Program invites applications for its Fellowship Class of 2002-2004. See [www.elpnet.org](http://www.elpnet.org)

**Grants Available** - The SBC Foundation offers grants primarily directed toward the states served by SBC Communications; among the states are California and Texas. The grants focus on education, community economic development, health and human services, arts and culture. See [www.sbc.com/Community/SBC\\_Foundation](http://www.sbc.com/Community/SBC_Foundation)

**Media Coverage** - Time magazine recently carried out a special project on the border in collaboration with ABC News, CNN, and America Online. The project included a cover story in the June 11 issue of Time called "Welcome to Amexica."

**Private Sector Partnership** - Ford Motor Co. is said to have given \$25 million to Conservation International to establish a new organization called the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business. According to reports, center officials have identified a Ford manufacturing plant in Sonora, Mexico as a partner for improving water conservation practices.

**Publications** -

- **EPA** - EPA's U.S. Mexico Border Information Center on Air Pollution (CICA) has made available several publications resulting from two major emission studies.

- **PAHO** - PAHO, regional office for WHO, has recently published "Equity and Health: Views from the Pan American Sanitary Bureau." See <http://publications.paho.org>

**San Pedro River** - The San Pedro Foundation has been set up as a non-profit fund-raising group to protect the San Pedro River. It differs from the two-year-old Upper San Pedro Partnership, which has 18 members, mostly government agencies.

#### **Websites**

- **Earthtrends** - The World Resources Institute's new interactive website contains global environmental and sustainable development information. See <http://earthtrends.wri.org>

- **FirstGov** - A new version of this site is up and running, which now gives users access to a full word search of 16 million State web pages, which is in addition to the more than 36 million existing federal pages. See [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov)

**Youth Training** - The National Hispanic Environmental Council is inviting teens aged 13-18 to apply for its "Minority Youth Environmental Training Institute August 3-26 in Gliridae, NM. See [www.nheec.org](http://www.nheec.org)

**Border Issues Events Calendar**  
from the Good Neighbor Environmental Board  
June 2001 Round-Up

*Notes: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists and may have changed. Please check a primary source for more details. Events specific to border region are in bold. Web sites may have to be re-entered.*

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>July 25-26</b> | Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting, San Diego, CA. See <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm">www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm</a>  |
| July 30-Aug 2     | Nature Conservancy conference, "Managing River Flows for Biodiversity," Fort Collins, CO. See <a href="http://www.freshwaters.org/conference">www.freshwaters.org/conference</a>  |
| <b>Aug 8</b>      | EPA El Paso Border Office monthly forum, El Paso, TX.   |
| Aug 11-14         | Western Governors Association Annual Meeting, Coeur d'Alene   |
| <b>Aug 22-24</b>  | U.S. Mexico Border Summit sponsored by Univ. of Texas-Pan American, Edinburg, TX  |
| Aug 27-28         | 9 <sup>th</sup> International Joint Meeting on New Technologies in Water and Wastewater Treatment, Monterrey, N.L., Mexico. Contact <a href="mailto:smaac@infosel.com">smaac@infosel.com</a>  |
| Aug 27-30         | 4 <sup>th</sup> Inter-Regional Conference on Environment-Water: Competitive Uses and Conservation Strategies for Water and Natural Resources, Fortaleza, Brazil. See <a href="http://www.funarbe.org.br/ircew">www.funarbe.org.br/ircew</a> |
| Aug 27-31         | 2001 ASCE Wetlands Engineering & River Restoration Conference, Reno, NV. See <a href="http://www.asce.org/conferences/wetlands2001">www.asce.org/conferences/wetlands2001</a>   |
| Sept 4            | U.S.-Mexico Binational Commission (BNC) meeting, Washington, D.C.   |
| Sept 5            | President Fox visit to U.S. State Department, Washington, D.C.  |
| Sept 8-11         | Children's Environmental Health II: Global Forum for Action Conference, Washington, D.C.  |
| <b>Sept 12-13</b> | BECC meeting, Mexico City.  |
| <b>Sept 13</b>    | EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.  |
| Sept 16-18        | Aspen Clean Energy Roundtable VIII, Aspen, CO. See <a href="http://www.MontreuxEnergy.com">www.MontreuxEnergy.com</a>   |

Sept 17-21 Advanced Water Pollution Control Seminar, Univ. of TX, Austin. See [www.lifelong.engr.utexas.edu](http://www.lifelong.engr.utexas.edu)

Sept 20-21 CEC SMOC and JPAC meetings, Tucson, AZ

**Sept 26-28** Ten (U.S.-Mexico Border) States Meeting - Monterrey, CA

**Oct 10** BECC meeting, Santa Fe, NM

**Oct 10-11** Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting, Laredo, TX. See [www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm](http://www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm)

**Oct 11** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.

**Oct 16 - 19** SCERP 2001 Annual Technical Conference: Sustainable Development in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, Mexicali, B.C. See [www.scerp.org](http://www.scerp.org)

**Oct 20** Dia del Rio (River Day), organized by the Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Coalition.

**Oct 25-26** Border Energy Forum, Tucson, AZ. See [www.glo.state.tx.us/border](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/border)

Oct 29-31 Stream, Riparian, and Floodplain Restoration Workshop, Albuquerque, NM.

Oct 29-31 2001 New Mexico Environmental Health Conference: Building Partnerships for Healthy Communities, Albuquerque, NM.. See [www.nmehc.org](http://www.nmehc.org)

**Nov 8** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.

Nov 12-15 AWRA's Annual Water Resources Conference, Albuquerque, NM. Contact [mike@awra.org](mailto:mike@awra.org)

**Dec 5-6** BECC meeting, Ciudad Victoria

Dec 11-13 Building Native Nations II Conference: Environment, Natural Resources, and Governance, Tucson, AZ. Sponsored by Udall Center.

Dec 17-21 International Conference on Pesticide Use & Health , NIH, Bethesda, MD. Contact: [soeh@degnon.org](mailto:soeh@degnon.org).

**2002**

Feb 23-27 Watershed 2002, Fort Lauderdale, FL. See [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org)

###

Editor: Elaine Koerner, Designated Federal Officer, Good Neighbor Environmental Board, (202) 564-1484